

Message Text

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50

ORIGIN PRS-01

INFO OCT-01 AF-06 ISO-00 L-02 H-02 CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00

SCS-03 EUR-12 SCA-01 IO-10 SS-15 /060 R

DRAFTED BY S/PRS: IPERNICK:MG

APPROVED BY S/PRS - ROBERT L. FUNSETH

AF - MR. COOTE (SUBS)

AF/P - MR. POPE (INFORMED)

----- 031294

R 140117Z FEB 75

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

AMEMBASSY NAIROBI

UNCLAS STATE 034095

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: CASC

SUBJECT: DETENTION AND EXPULSION OF TIME MAGAZINE
CORRESPONDENT (ROBBINS, ERIC)

1. LOCAL TIME CORRESPONDENT (STROBE TALBOT) CALLED DEPTOFF'S ATTENTION TO TIME INC.'S CONCERN OVER ETHIOPIAN ARREST AND EXPULSION OF TIME STAFFER, ERIC ROBBINS. ACCORDING TO TALBOT, ROBBINS, A BRITISH CITIZEN AND ONE OF TWO TIME STAFF MEMBERS IN AFRICA, FLEW TO ADDIS ON MONDAY. HE WAS ARRESTED BY ETHIOPIAN AUTHORITIES ON WEDNESDAY, INTERROGATED, INCARCERATED OVERNIGHT, TAKEN TO THE AIRPORT ON THURSDAY AND EXPELLED TO NAIROBI. ALLEGEDLY, THE CHARGES WERE NEVER SPECIFIC BUT THEY RELATED TO POSSESSION OF IMPROPER PRESS CREDENTIALS.

2. TALBOT SAID ROBBINS, WHO IS 60, SUFFERED BOTH HUMILIATION AND PHYSICAL HARDSHIP. HE EXPECTS TIME WILL LODGE A PROTEST WITH THE ETHIOPIAN EMBASSY HERE AND THAT ROBBINS WILL APPROACH EMBASSY NAIROBI FOR ASSISTANCE IN OBTAINING AN EXPLANATION OF THE INCIDENT. TIME WILL BE REPORTING THE INCIDENT IN ITS NEXT
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EDITION.

3. TALBOT ALSO SAID THAT ROBBINS' CELL WAS NEXT TO THAT

OF AN (UNNAMED) AMERICAN CITIZEN "WHO HAD BEEN LAN-
GUISHING THERE FOR SOME TIME ON UNSPECIFIED CHARGES."
HIS ETHIOPIAN JAILERS GAVE HIM LITTLE OPPORTUNITY TO
CONVERSE WITH THE AMERICAN.

4. APPRECIATE POST COMMENTS.

INGERSOLL

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NNN

Message Attributes

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Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: EXPULSION, DETENTION, JOURNALISTS
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Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 14 FEB 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
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Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: n/a
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 JAN 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
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Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: IPERNICK:MG
Enclosure: n/a
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Handling Restrictions: n/a
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ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750241/aaaabkfn.tel
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Margaret P. Grafeld
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TAGS: CASC, US, ET, (ROBBINS, ERIC)
To: ADDIS ABABA NAIROBI
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